

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0045] beginning on page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0045] Each pair of PCR primers is designed to introduce an *NdeI* site at the 5' end and a *SpeI* site at the 3' end of the gene amplified. PCR products are cloned into pCR-Blunt II-TOPO vector and the resulting plasmids are used to transform *E. coli* DH5 α . The plasmids are digested with the enzymes *NdeI* and *SpeI* and fragments corresponding to each gene are cloned into a modified pET-24b (the modification consists of replacing the region between the *XbaI* and *EcoRI* sites in the multiple cloning cassette with the sequence 5'-TCTAGAAGGAGATATACATATGTGAACTAGTGAATTC -3') (SEQ ID NO:1) previously digested with the same enzymes.